

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2004/02/11 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000300030004-6

PSG/AID-210/70  
29 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

SUBJECT: Status of NPIC Participation in the COINS  
Experiment

1. Early in the COINS Experiment we were able to communicate satisfactorily with the switch computer and, ergo, with the other members of the net who were able to talk to the switch. We were limited to two hours a day for this dialogue and could only answer questions no one was likely to ask. (Because of the security level set for COINS, the file we "contributed" was of no particular use to anyone. For the same reason we could not use the machine for other work while operating in the net.) Although the files elsewhere in the COINS system were more interesting to NPIC than our file was to the other participants, the analytical elements of the Center weren't exactly turned on by the thought of a query capability that they could exercise for only two hours a day. (If a query wasn't answered within that two hours, the only recourse was to try again the next day.) Under these circumstances there was no point in continuing to participate in COINS when the classification of our file was held to be higher than the security level of the COINS system.

2. Recently the COINS Project Manager proposed that we rejoin the net in a "passive mode", eight hours a day, wherein we could query files of other participants but would not make any of our files available. The Office of Security has given its approval subject to successful installation of a monitor printer that will, independently of the computer, produce a record of all transmissions from our system to the switch computer at DIA. NSA will provide and install the printer. Installation of the printer and checkout of the system should be complete by 15 July.

3. The Chief of IEG has assured us that the IEG analysts will be made aware of what is available through COINS and that they will be encouraged to try it out. My own feeling is that the transition from our present procedures into the IIS may create an atmosphere in which users will be predisposed to try COINS. The monitor output will provide us

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25X1 an indicator of system activity and users of the system will be asked for an assessment of its utility. In the short-term, this assessment will establish whether or not the system is of value to the Center. I submit that in the long-term, the greatest value of a COINS-like system (raised to [ ] security level) will be that it will permit the rest of the community to have fast and flexible access to NPIC-developed information.

- 5 -  
[ ]  
Chief, Technical Planning Staff,  
AID/PSG

25X1

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee  
1 - NPIC/IEG  
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23 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : TSO Approval of NPIC Participation in COINS

REFERENCE : Memorandum for the Record  
dated 15 June 1970; subject:  
Security Aspects of NPIC  
Participation in COINS

1. On 17 June 1970 [redacted] TSO/CIA advised the undersigned of his approval of passive NPIC participation in COINS under the conditions outlined in reference.
2. The DDI Planning Staff, the CIA COINS Subsystem Manager, and appropriate NPIC personnel are being advised of this approval.

Signed

Chief,

[redacted]  
Intelligence Processing Branch  
Office of Security

Distribution:

- Orig. - DDI Planning Officer  
1 - CIA COINS Subsystem Manager  
1 - Chief, AID/NPIC

SECRET

